

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the courtesy that the Examiner extended to Applicant's representative during a telephone interview held with the Examiner on June 28, 2004. In the telephone interview, the Applicant's representative kindly brought to the attention of the Examiner that a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121), which was mailed from the USPTO on May 3, 2004, was not timely received by the Applicant's representative. In particular, the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was not received by the Applicant's representative until after the one month due date of June 3, 2004. The Applicant's representative now hereby respectfully submits the instant Substitute Preliminary Amendment to be entered for consideration to replace the previously submitted non-compliant Preliminary Amendment. As understood by the Applicant's representative, the Examiner informally indicated that the instant Substitute Preliminary Amendment would be entered and considered.

This substitute preliminary amendment is submitted for a divisional application claiming priority under 35 USC § 120 to US Patent Application Serial No. 10/260,257, filed September 27, 2002. Claims 1-16, which were elected in the parent case in response to a restriction, are canceled in this preliminary amendment. Claims 17-20 remain pending in the instant application. Applicant kindly requests consideration of all pending claims.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

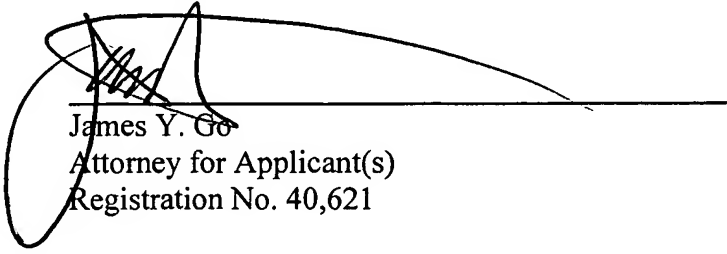
Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date:

6-29-04

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